

The Wrath of God



Romans - Chapter 1:18-24

Last Week we Explained the Gospel is about Salvation

Question:

**What does the Gospel
Save us From?**

**What does putting your faith in
Jesus Christ Save you From?**

Answer:

The WRATH of God!!

Jesus Said Right after John 3:16, that He came to Save you from the Wrath of God:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should **not perish** but have everlasting life.

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and **he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.**”

God's Wrath on Unrighteousness

Romans 1:18

¹⁸ For the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all **ungodliness** and **unrighteousness** of men, **who suppress the truth** in unrighteousness,

This begins the second part of Romans extending to 3:19, where God shows that the entire human race is Condemned.

Romans 1 – Scripture

<https://youtu.be/JKWMnJXCw40?t=128>

Begin at 2:08 minute mark.

Wrath of God

- Start contrast between v.16-17 – this new section extends to Chapter 3:19. Paul cuts to the chase. No soft sell here.
- Good news of the gospel starts with the **Bad news** of why we need it – we are lost, condemned & subject to eternal death.
- Paul says you need the Gospel to avoid the wrath of God and to avoid hell. Not to solve your current life problems or “felt” needs. This is your real need.
- Jonathon Edwards, Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God, most famous sermon ever preached during the “Great Awakening”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vmvZIAGKJo>

5 Types of God's Wrath

(by John MacArthur)

1. Eternal wrath –the punishment that God brings upon unbelieving sinners forever in hell. (Matthew 25:41-46, many other verses). Dealt with at the Cross.

2. Eschatological wrath, that is the wrath of God that is released at the end of the world described by some of the Old Testament prophets, described by Jesus Christ Himself in the Olivet Discourse, and clearly laid out for us in the book of Revelation. (Luke 21:23, Romans 2:5, Revelation 6-18).

3. Cataclysmic wrath, like a tsunami, a volcano, a hurricane, an earthquake... Noah's Flood and the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah are examples of this wrath. Cataclysms are a reflection of the judgment of God. (Numbers 16:31-35).

4. Consequential wrath. Consequential wrath is the sowing and reaping wrath, you live a certain kind of life and you set in motion certain forces that will produce judgment. The resulting wrath can be reflective of the consequence of the sin-choice a person makes. (Acts 5:4-5, 1 Corinthians 11:29-30).

5. The wrath of abandonment. It is that wrath exhibited by God when He turns His back on a group, society, or individual. (Romans 1:24, 28, 28).

Why is God's Wrath Necessary?

Because of God's **Holiness**

God's Holiness hates sin and demands Punishment for it.

Righteous indignation.

"The Soul that sinneth, it shall die" Ezekiel 18:20

"The penalty of sin is death" Romans 6:23

The Word “For” = a Reason = Logical Sequence

16 For I am not ashamed of **the gospel** of Christ, for it is the **power** of God to salvation for everyone who believes

17 For in it the **righteousness of God is revealed** from faith

18 For the **wrath of God is revealed** from heaven against all **ungodliness** and **unrighteousness** of men, who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness,

20 For since the **creation** of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, **being understood** by the things that are made

21 because although they knew God, **they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful**, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

26 For this reason **God gave them up** to vile passions...

Why is the Gospel Necessary?

Romans 5:9

“having now been justified by His blood, **we shall be saved from wrath** through Him.”

Romans 3:25

whom **God set forth as a propitiation** (**acceptable sacrifice to appease God’s Wrath**) by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness,

Romans 8:1

There is therefore **now no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus

Wrath of God

- Very essential doctrine – in the Bible & in church history
- Wrath is a result of God's hatred of sin & In His Justice & Righteousness, sin must be punished
- God is Holy. Darkness cannot exist in the Light. Holiness cannot be exposed to sin.
- In verse 17 it says the **Righteousness of God is Revealed.**
- In verse 18 it says the **Wrath of God is Revealed.**
- You cannot take verse 17 without verse 18. It's not a question of argument. We must accept this truth and proclaim it.

Wrath of God Revealed In:

1. Revealed in man's **conscience** – sense of right & wrong
2. Revealed in the **physical consequences** of sin
 1. If you break the law, you will be charged.
 2. If you drink too much, you will get a hangover, etc.
3. **Creation & nature** is a revelation of God's wrath – thorns and weeds will destroy a garden if it is not tended – Romans 8:19-22
4. Revealed in **Death** - is universal. Romans 5
5. Revealed in **History** – From Genesis 3 to today – Flood, Tower of Babel, Sodom & Gomorrah...
6. Revealed in the **Teachings of the entire Bible** – If you obey God, you will be blessed, if not, you will be punished. Day of the Lord, etc.

Wrath of God Is Ultimately Revealed in:

THE CROSS

- Revealed in the death of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ
- If you do not see the wrath of God revealed on Calvary, then you cannot appreciate the love of God
- God's hatred of sin and righteousness demanded this ultimate sacrifice.
- Only when you see the depth of God's wrath can you see the depth of God's love.
- Romans 5:8 – Christ died for you a sinner, so you can receive His Righteousness and be justified.

Future Wrath of God

- **Romans 2:5** “But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are **treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath** and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,
 - **Romans 2:8** ⁸ but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—**indignation and wrath,** ⁹ **tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man**
 - **Romans 3:5** **But** if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? **Is God unjust who inflicts wrath?**
 - **Romans 9:22** “*What if God, wanting to show **His wrath** and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of **wrath** prepared for destruction,*”
-
- God is withholding His wrath now out of grace and mercy to give us time to repent.
 - The greatest wrath is for those who heard the truth of the Gospel and rejected it. The number one sin (even more than immorality) is to reject God Himself.

Present Wrath of God

- This is the **Wrath of Abandonment** – if you reject God, He turns us over to go our own way
- V.24, 26, 28 – “**God gave them over...**” – 3 times
- The issue of God handing over is all about denying God in v. 18
- Depraved mind (reprobate) – it can no longer differentiate between right and wrong
- When God hands you over, you will continue to make decisions that take you further away from God. Only God’s mercy can bring a person back.
- This is the scariest thing that can happen to a person or an institution is when they reject the Gospel.
- This is the state of the world right now.
- Interestingly, people in this state think they are just fine.

Wrath of God – Abandonment

- The wrath described in Romans is the **personal wrath** of Abandonment of God (**Prov 1:24-31**; Matt 15:14; Acts 14:16; Ps 81:11-16)
- When God lets people or nations go to their own sinful choices and to the consequences. This is the story of history (Israel was handed over to their enemies) and our nation now.
- **The Removal of restraining grace** - sin is the cause and sin is the consequence. God restrains Satan's power over everyone, to a point, otherwise Satan would immediately consume us.
- **When man rejects the true God, He abandons us**

Wrath of God Revealed Against

- **Sin**

- Sin is any transgression of the law
- **The 1st 4 Commandments** relate to our attitude and relationship towards God
 - **This is ungodliness – the 1st sin in the Garden**
- **The last 6 Commandments** relates to our conduct and relationships towards other people.
 - **This is unrighteousness**
- Godliness & Righteousness must always go together
- Godliness always come before righteousness because:
 - The real essence of sin is ungodliness – Mark 12 – the greatest commandment
 - The main purpose of life is to glorify God

Wrath of God Revealed Against

- **Ungodliness**

- The main Sin - Order is important – unrighteousness is a consequence of ungodliness
- Literally means **Irreverence towards God**
- What do you think of God in terms of who He is – this will affect everything else in your life.
- Your failure to take God seriously and live for His glory.
- 3:18 Summary– “There is no fear of God before their eyes”.
- Fear of God creates humility, acknowledgement of sin and judgement.
- Seeker friendly churches try to make people feel happy and do not instill a fear of God anymore

Wrath of God Revealed Against

• Ungodliness before Unrighteousness

- People do not feel they are sinners because they don't think they have done unrighteous acts – **self righteous**
- But they have not recognized that they committed the sin of ungodliness – they fail to appreciate the glory and majesty of the glory of God, revealed in Jesus Christ.
- The moment an unbeliever realizes that they have rejected God their whole lives, their mouth will be stopped and they will experience a great humbling conviction of sin.
- No one can have any righteousness without God – only Godliness can lead to righteous
- The Primary matter of judgement is your belief in Jesus.

Wrath of God Revealed Against

- **Ungodliness & Social Justice**

- This is the problem with Social Justice and Social work performed by churches – superficial acts of righteousness
- **Social activities that focuses on “righteous” acts, but without Godliness is not the purpose of the church. “The Social Gospel”.**
- What have they accomplished? Society is worse now.
- You can never have morality and a better world without the Gospel and salvation of souls.
- We must start with God before we deal with Man
- An unbeliever must recognize they are a Sinner because they have denied God, and the punishment is judgement and the damnation of hell.

Wrath of God

- **Unrighteousness**

- Directed towards other people
- Breaking of Gods Laws
- 10 Commandments – 1st four govern your relationship with God, the last 6 govern your relationship with man

- **Suppress**

- The truth of God's existence as Creator
- V.20 – everyone is without of excuse, the fact of God is made evident to everyone.
- Human depravity tries to get away from truth and God

Wrath of God

- God's wrath is **Just**. But God is also **Loving** and His wrath can lead the sinner to repentance.
- 21-24 implies connection between **IDOLOTRY & IMMORALITY**.
- **It always starts with IDOLOTRY**, then begins a slippery slope of **IMMORALITY** towards increasingly perverse sexual activities and other vices of depraved man (greed, envy, slander, pride).
- God hates sin and judges it, He but loves the sinner. People get it backwards, we love the sin & hate the sinner.
- The more you realize you are a common sinner, underserving of anything but judgement, the more you will appreciate God's loving Grace.

Wrath of God – Why Does it Happen ...Because People Suppress the Truth & Deny God

18 For the **wrath of God** is revealed
from heaven against all
ungodliness and unrighteousness
of men, **who suppress the truth** in
unrighteousness,

Wrath of God – Why Does it Happen ...Because People Deny God's

1) Creation

¹⁹ **because** what may be known of God is manifest in them, for **God has shown it to them.**

²⁰ For since the **creation** of the world His invisible *attributes* are **clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made**, even His eternal power and Godhead, **so that they are without excuse,**

People Deny God's General Revelation of Creation

1. **Revelation** v.19– **Natural** or **General Revelation**(creation); **Moral** (Rom. 2:14-15).

- Implies we must have the Truth to suppress it – it's so obvious that a creation must have a creator that there is no excuse. This is sufficient to condemn, but not sufficient to save.
- Reason and morality should lead us to God if we just followed the divine truth in our hearts (morals & conscious).
- Also, we have Special Revelation in the Bible, churches, etc. **But people reject this revelation!**
- V. 20 “Invisible things can be **clearly seen** being **understood by the things that are made**” – Paul connects all of creation as revealing God's character. **Ps. 19:1** “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.”
- How Does Society now Suppress the Truth?

People Deny God's General Revelation of Creation

- Creation is so awesome, powerful, perfect, and genius that only a fool could deny that there is not an eternal creator.
- Consider the fact that the universe is constructed in a way that is conducive to life. There is just enough oxygen to support life on earth. If there were even a little less or a little more, the Earth's atmosphere would not be able to support life as we know it. Moreover, the Earth is just the right distance from the sun. If we were a little bit closer, the atmosphere would be too hot to sustain life; but if we were a little further away, plants would not receive enough energy from the sun to carry on photosynthesis, the primary process by which the sun's energy is converted into life on Earth. Think of the miracle of birth and of human organs.

Wrath of God – Why Does it Happen ...Because People Deny God's

2) No Thankfulness

²¹ because, although **they knew God**, they **did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful**, but became **futile in their thoughts**, **and their foolish hearts were darkened**.

Wrath of God - Why Does it Happen

2. No Thankfulness

- Not thankful for their provisions such as food, rain, revelation God gave us of Himself, etc.
- Therefore when people reject God, He will place spiritual blindness on people as a judgement, and “their foolish heart” will be darkened.
- **Mark 4:11-12; 24-25** - Spiritual Blindness & Principle of Measure – if you get some truth and use it properly, you get more truth, if not, you lose the truth you had.

Wrath of God - Why Does it Happen

3. Rationalization of Darkness

- v22 – “**professing to be wise they became fools**” - Though man finds God in reason and moral conscience, he rejects it because he loves darkness more than light (**John 3:19-20**), believing that he can live any way he wants without judgement.
- Amazing how intelligent people who reject the truth of the Bible go on to believe other religions that have no basis of support or truth (idolatry of demons).

4. False Religion - IDOLOTRY

- v23, 28 – “**exchanged glory of God for an image**” – men create their own religion and idols—exchanged the truth for a lie. Declining worth – man-birds-animals-reptiles.